



Advocacy Department

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To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express Mass Audubon's support for a proposed bylaw banning single-use plastic shopping bags in the Town of Wellesley.

Mass Audubon encourages the use of reusable shopping bags as opposed to plastic or other one-time use bags to reduce solid waste and provide for overall environmental health. US EPA statistics show that over 380 billion plastic bags are consumed in the US each year. Most go to landfills, accumulate, and then do not easily decompose (it takes nearly 1000 years for a plastic bag to fully compost). Plastic bags should not be burned because they contain pollutants and toxic fluorocarbons.

These single-use bags also pose a threat to sea turtles, whales, and other marine animals that die every year from eating plastic bags they mistake for food. Because they are made from polyethylene, which is made from crude oil and natural gas, plastic bags deplete valuable and costly nonrenewable resources.

Mass Audubon applauds the effort being made in Wellesley to eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags and contribute to a shift away from disposable petroleum-based products.

Sincerely,

John J. Clarke
Director of Public Policy & Government Relations

Mass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Together with more than 100,000 members, we care for 35,000 acres of conservation land, provide school, camp, and other educational programs for 225,000 children and adults annually, and advocate for sound environmental policies at local, state, and federal levels. Founded in 1896 by two inspirational women who were committed to the protection of birds, Mass Audubon has grown to become a powerful force for conservation in New England. Today we are respected for our science, successful advocacy, and innovative approaches to connecting people and nature. Each year, our statewide network of wildlife sanctuaries welcomes nearly half a million visitors of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds and serves as the base for our work. To support these important efforts, call 800-AUDUBON (283-8266) or visit www.massaudubon.org.

Protecting the Nature of Massachusetts